

Application No.: 10/681909

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Amendments to the Claims:

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method of modifying a fluoropolymer comprising:
 contacting the fluoropolymer with a modifying composition preparable from components comprising a phase transfer catalyst, a liquid vehicle, and at least one of a sulfide or polysulfide salt or an anionic conjugate acid of a sulfide or polysulfide thereof; and
 heating the modifying composition at a temperature of at least about 40 degrees Celsius while in contact with the fluoropolymer, wherein the fluoropolymer has a backbone comprising subunits having the structure $-\text{CH}_2\text{CFX}-$, wherein X represents H, Cl, or F.
2. (Original) A method of modifying a fluoropolymer according to claim 1, wherein the fluoropolymer backbone further comprises at least one of subunits having the structure $-\text{CF}_2\text{CF}_2-$ or subunits having the structure $-\text{CF}_2\text{CF}(\text{CF}_3)-$.
3. (Original) A method of modifying a fluoropolymer according to claim 1, wherein the fluoropolymer backbone further comprises subunits having the structure $-\text{CF}_2\text{CF}_2-$ and subunits having the structure $-\text{CF}_2\text{CF}(\text{CF}_3)-$.
4. (Original) A method of modifying a fluoropolymer according to claim 1, wherein the subunits are monomeric units.
5. (Original) A method of modifying a fluoropolymer according to claim 1, wherein the fluoropolymer is preparable from monomers comprising vinylidene difluoride.
6. (Original) A method according to claim 5, wherein the monomers further comprise at least one of tetrafluoroethylene or hexafluoropropylene.

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7. (Original) A method according to claim 6, wherein the monomers further comprise tetrafluoroethylene and hexafluoropropylene.
8. (Original) A method of modifying a fluoropolymer according to claim 1, wherein X is H.
9. (Original) A method of modifying a fluoropolymer according to claim 1, wherein X is F.
10. (Original) A method of modifying a fluoropolymer according to claim 9, wherein the fluoropolymer backbone further comprises at least one of subunits having the structure $\text{--CF}_2\text{CF}_2\text{--}$ or monomeric units having the structure $\text{--CF}_2\text{CF}(\text{CF}_3)\text{--}$.
11. (Original) A method of modifying a fluoropolymer according to claim 9, wherein the fluoropolymer backbone further comprises subunits having the structure $\text{--CF}_2\text{CF}_2\text{--}$ and subunits having the structure $\text{--CF}_2\text{CF}(\text{CF}_3)\text{--}$.
12. (Original) A method of modifying a fluoropolymer according to claim 9, wherein the subunits are monomeric units.
13. (Original) A method of modifying a fluoropolymer according to claim 9, wherein the fluoropolymer is preparable from monomers comprising vinylidene difluoride.
14. (Original) A method according to claim 13, wherein the monomers further comprise at least one of tetrafluoroethylene or hexafluoropropylene.
15. (Original) A method according to claim 14, wherein the monomers further comprise tetrafluoroethylene and hexafluoropropylene.
16. (Original) A method of according to claim 1, wherein the fluoropolymer comprises a film.

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17. (Original) A method of according to claim 16, further comprising bonding the film to a substrate.
18. (Original) A method according to claim 17, wherein bonding comprises adhesive bonding.
19. (Original) A method according to claim 17, wherein bonding comprises heat laminating.
20. (Original) A method according to claim 17, wherein the substrate comprises a film.
21. (Original) A method according to claim 17, wherein the substrate comprises at least one thermoplastic polymer.
22. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 21, wherein at least one thermoplastic polymer comprises polyamide.
23. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the phase transfer catalyst comprises a tetraalkylphosphonium or tetraalkylammonium salt having at least 16 carbon atoms.
24. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the phase transfer catalyst comprises a tetraalkylphosphonium or tetraalkylammonium salt having at least 20 carbon atoms.
25. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the phase transfer catalyst comprises a tetraalkylphosphonium or tetraalkylammonium salt having at least 24 carbon atoms.
26. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the liquid vehicle comprises water.
27. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the modifying composition is heated at a temperature of at least about 60 degrees Celsius while in contact with the fluoropolymer.

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28. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the modifying composition is heated at a temperature of at least about 80 degrees Celsius while in contact with the fluoropolymer.

29. (Original) An article comprising a fluoropolymer modified according to claim 1.

30. (Original) An article comprising a fluoropolymer modified according to claim 2.

31. (Original) An article comprising a fluoropolymer modified according to claim 3.

32. (Previously Presented) An article according to claim 29, wherein the article comprises a composite article.

33. (Original) An article according to claim 32, wherein the composite article comprises a first substrate having a surface comprising the modified fluoropolymer and a second substrate bonded to the surface.

34. (Original) An article according to claim 33, wherein the second substrate is bonded to the surface of the first substrate by adhesive.

35. (Original) An article according to claim 33, wherein the second substrate contacts the surface of the first substrate.

36. (Original) An article according to claim 33, wherein at least one of the first or second substrates comprises a film.

37. (Original) An article according to claim 33, wherein the second substrate comprises thermoplastic polymer.

38. (Original) An article according to claim 37, wherein the thermoplastic polymer comprises polyamide.

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Claims 39 - 64 (Canceled)

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INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Applicants' representative, Bradford B. Wright gratefully acknowledges a telephonic interview with Examiner Henry S. Hu on May 19, 2005 wherein the essence of this response was discussed.